



LBA DISABILITY COUNSEL OFFERS MANY SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

Ungaro & Cifuni, Attorneys at Law, are experienced disability attorneys available to assist both active and retired members with disability matters. Disability law is highly specialized and involves complex administrative processes. The Ungaro & Cifuni firm is the preeminent New York City law firm dedicated to this particular area of law. Their member services include assistance with New York City Police Pension Fund disability applications, September 11th Victim Compensation Fund claims, JASTA lawsuits, and Personal Injury matters.

NYPD Disability Pension Applications

Members are strongly encouraged to call Ungaro & Cifuni when they sustain potentially career-ending injuries in the line of duty. Ungaro & Cifuni will provide ongoing in-office and telephone consultations throughout the accidental disability pension process, from initial injury through conclusion, at no cost to the member. Ungaro & Cifuni can help ensure that your LOD injury reports properly articulate the accidental nature of the injury. Ungaro & Cifuni has the experience to provide evaluations regarding the strengths and weaknesses of your claim, and to guide you through the administrative process of establishing disability. Their services include the preparation of your application and other required forms, guidance before your physical examination by the Police Pension Fund's Medical Board, and legal representation before the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees, which may include legal arguments made on your behalf.

September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Claims

Cash Awards: Members who have developed World Trade Center-related conditions should contact Ungaro & Cifuni to determine whether they are eligible for a cash award. Eligibility requirements have changed, and applicants who were initially told that they did not qualify may now be eligible for money damages. Members who are diagnosed with any new condition, including cancer, sleep apnea, Barrett's Esophagus, and COPD, should contact Ungaro & Cifuni to protect their potential entitlement. Members must register with the Victim Compensation Fund within two years from the date they are notified that their condition is WTC-related.

Non-economic awards for pain and suffering are currently capped at \$250,000 for WTC-related cancers, and at \$90,000

for non-cancerous WTC conditions. Individuals can receive reimbursements for out-of-pocket medical expenses and replacement services. In addition to a non-economic award, members who have developed disabling injuries can request lost earnings, yielding an award that could exceed \$1 million.

Medical Benefits: Members who have developed World Trade Center-related conditions also may be eligible for medical benefits through the World Trade Center Health Program. The Health Program has been extended through 2090 and provides medical treatment, testing and medication for WTC-related conditions at no cost.

JASTA Claims

Congress has enacted the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), which allows First Responders to sue foreign countries, like Saudi Arabia, that may have been complicit in the 9/11 attacks. However, there is much that has not been settled. Under the current legislation, the Justice Department can request a stay in any such action pending settlement discussions between the U.S. and Saudi governments. Further, Congress still may amend the law to protect the interests of the United States in cases where our government may be held liable in foreign courts.

There are other issues that will take time to resolve. We do not yet know which classes of victims will be entitled to recover. We do not yet know whether victims who died on September 11th will be treated the same as the First Responders and survivors who have subsequently been diagnosed with WTC-related conditions. Regardless, we will fight to protect the interests of all those who suffered a traumatic injury, or who subsequently developed illnesses as a consequence of their exposure at the WTC site. LBA members that have questions, or would like to participate in a JASTA lawsuit should contact Ungaro & Cifuni for more information.

As a service to LBA members, the firm of Ungaro & Cifuni is available regarding the above and other legal matters. Ungaro & Cifuni may be reached at 212.766.5800, or via their website at www.nyccdissabilitylaw.com